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has a first flank face directed to the incidence end face and a second flank face opposite to the first flank face, and

wherein each of said ridges runs so as to traverse obliquely the emission function face in a direction which is inclined at an angle falling within a predetermined angle range with respect to the incidence end face, said ridges being arranged disconnectedly at intervals.

Attached hereto is a "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made," comprising a marked-up version of the claims. 37 C.F.R. §1.121 (c)(l)(ii).

II. REMARKS

A. Introduction

In the December 19, 2002 Office Action, claims 1-34 are noted as pending, claims 5-10, 15-20, 25-30, 33, and 34 are noted as allowable, and claims 1-4, 11-14, 21-24, 31 and 32 are rejected based on prior art (it is understood that the use of "25" in item 6 of PTO-326 should be --24--).

In this Response, independent claims 1, 11 and 21 are amended, and remarks are provided.

B. Rejection of Claims 1-4, 11-14, 21-24, 31 and 32 Under U.S.C. §§102 and 103

These claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Beeson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,396,350). Claims 31 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based upon this same reference.

Independent claims 1, 11 and 21 have been amended herein to clarify that the ridges run as to traverse obliquely the emission function face in a direction which is inclined with respect to ~~the incidence end face. Compare Fig. 5a (prior art) with Figs. 5b and 5c, (in particular, Fig. 5b),~~ and the related description at numbered paragraphs 55-61 of the substitute specification filed with the September 27, 2002 Response.

In contrast, Beeson et al. fails to disclose or teach such an oblique running direction of ridges (micro prisms). For example, Figs. 2 and 3D of Beeson et al. are side views which show micro prisms traversing the emission face parallel to the incidence end face. See also e.g., Col. 6, lines 54-57 ("the micro-prisms have a repeat distance 38 in the direction perpendicular to light generating means and repeat distance 40 in the direction parallel to light generating means 4").

This difference is a factor in allowing the present invention to have an effect that is not expected in the prior art, as described in the related description. See, e.g., numbered paragraphs 58-69.

III. CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-34 are now in condition for allowance.

If there are any additional fees associated with this Response, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this Response, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone conference with the Examiner to attend to these matters.

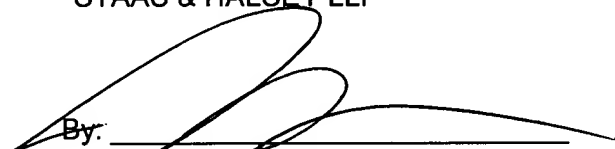
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: _____

6/18/03

By: _____



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

A. IN THE WRITTEN DESCRIPTION:

Please amend the following paragraphs of the Written Description:

[0076] The height of reach ridge 13E is preferably about 20 μm [], and the ratio of h to width (actual width) WD falls preferably within a range from [0. 5 to 1. 0] 0.5 to 1.0. It is noted that indication of W in Fig. 2 is "effective width".

[00116] Illumination light is [introduce] introduced into the guide plate 33 in the form of a beam flux having some angular extent. The guide plate 33 may be made of the same material as that of the guide plate 13 employed in the first or second embodiment. Injection molding may be applied for manufacturing.

B. IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1, 11 and 21 as follows (for the Examiner's convenience the remaining pending claims are set out below):

1. (TWICE AMENDED) A guide plate comprising:
an incidence end face to introduce illumination light; and
an emission function face provided to emit the illumination light,
wherein said emission function face is provided with a number of ridges, each of which has a first flank face directed to the incidence end face and a second flank face opposite to the first flank face, and
wherein each of said ridges [extends] runs so as to traverse obliquely the emission function
face in a direction which is inclined at an angle falling within a predetermined angle range with respect to the incidence end face, said ridges being arranged disconnectedly at intervals.
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11. (TWICE AMENDED) A surface light source device of side light type comprising:
a guide plate which has an incidence end face to introduce illumination light and an emission function face provided to emit the illumination light; and
a primary light source disposed beside the guide plate to supply illumination light,
wherein said emission function face is provided with a number of ridges, each of which has a first flank face directed to the incidence end face and a second flank face opposite to the first flank face, and
wherein each of said ridges [extends] runs so as to traverse obliquely the emission function face in a direction which is inclined at an angle falling within a predetermined angle range with respect to the incidence end face[s], said ridges being arranged disconnectedly at intervals.

21. (TWICE AMENDED) A liquid crystal display comprising:
a surface light source device of side light type which has a [glide] guide plate having an incidence end face to introduce illumination light and an emission function face provided to emit the illumination [fight] light and which has a primary light source disposed beside the guide plate to supply illumination light; and
a liquid crystal display panel to be illuminated by the surface light source device,
wherein said emission function face is provided with a number of ridges, each of which has a first flank face directed to the incidence end face and a second flank face opposite [with] to the first flank face, and
wherein each of said ridges [extends] runs so as to traverse obliquely the emission function face in a direction which is inclined at an angle falling within a predetermined angle range with respect to the incidence end face, said ridges being arranged disconnectedly at intervals.